

## Thomas Pinckney to Andrew Jackson, April 7, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### THOMAS PINCKNEY TO JACKSON.

Fort Hawkins, April 7, 1814

*Sir* , Your letter giving an account of the signal Victory obtained by the bravery and good conduct of the Northern Army employed in the Creek War under your command was duly received. I sincerely congratulate you on the additional honor which you and your gallant Troops have thereby acquired.

The advance of the Central Army under Colonel Milton, took part on the Heights of the Talipoosa opposite to Tuckabatchie on the 3rd of this Month as soon as they shall have established sufficient entrenchments to protect the passage and secure their stores, they will proceed to attack the main body of the Enemy, who are said to be collecting within 7 or 8 miles of their present post.

Brigdr Genl Graham<sup>1</sup> with the rear of the North Carolina Troops is on the march to join the advance. I expect that you will soon be able to form a junction, as you must ere this have received the intelligence, that you can obtain some provisions on the Talipoosa from the eastern Army. With this hope I purpose setting out in two or three days toward the Fork.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Graham, a Revolutionary soldier from North Carolina.

I have lately received the orders of Government directing the terms to be granted to the Enemy when they shall sue for peace. The principal conditions consist in their delivering up the Prophets; making indemnity for the War by cessions of Land; Roads and Navigation

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through all parts of their territory to be free to the Citizens of the United States; and they are to renounce all connection with the Spanish Posts. I communicate Sir, the above instructions<sup>2</sup> to you that in case any of them should make application to you, they may be apprised of the terms on which alone they can obtain peace. Col: Hawkins and myself are directed to make the Treaty. . . . .

2 Armstrong to General Pinckney, Mar. 17, 1814, as follows:

“The policy, dictated as well by the unprovoked and ungrateful conduct of the hostile Creeks, as by a due regard to the future safety of the South Western frontier, may be brought under the following heads—viz.

“1st. An indemnification (for expenses incurred by the U. S. in prosecuting the War) by such cession or cessions of land as may be deemed equivalent for said expenses:

“2d. A stipulation on their part that they will cease all intercourse with any Spanish post, Garrison or town, and that they will not admit among them any agent or trader who does not derive his authority [by] a licence from the U States:

“3d. An acknowledgement of a right in the U. States to open Roads thro' their territory, and also to establish therein such military posts and trading houses as may be deemed necessary or proper—and 4th. A Surrender of the Prophets, or other instigators of the War, who will be held subject to the Orders of the President. With these outlines as your guide you are authorized, in conjunction with Colonel Hawkins, to open and conclude a treaty of peace with the hostile Creeks, as soon as they shall express a desire to put an end to the War.”

This idea was further developed by Armstrong in a letter to General Pinckney, Mar. 20, 1814, as follows: “Since the date of my last Letter, it has occurred to me that the proposed treaty with the Creeks should take a form altogether Military and be in the nature of a *capitulation*—in which case the whole authority of making and concluding the terms will

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rest in you exclusively as commanding General. In this transaction, should it take place, Colonel Hawkins, as agent, may be usefully employed”.

When it was known that no Tennesseean was to have part in making the treaty of peace, great disappointment was felt in Tennessee. The following protest by Brig.-Gen. George Doherty and eight other officers, Apr. 18, 1814, was sent to George W. Campbell, member of Congress from Tennessee, to be used as effectively as possible:

“ *Sir*. We have been advised that Genl. Pinckney and Col Hawkins have been appointed to settle the terms of a treaty with the Creek Indians whenever they shall sue for peace. With the arrangements of Government, we are very unwilling to interfere; and should certainly not attempt it on this occasion, if, in that which has been made for the adjustment of the contemplated treaty, we did not believe that the interest of our state, very deeply concerned, was somewhat overlooked.

“Why the state of Tennessee should be without a voice in arranging a treaty with the Creeks, is a matter of equal astonishment and concern. Certainly there is no state or territory whose interest and feelings are more deeply involved in the adjustment; nor any one, we humbly presume, whose interest and feelings ought more to be regarded. In the midst of such difficulties and privations as scarcely ever before befell the lot of any army to encounter or endure we have at length effected the subjugation of an enemy who had so long and so cruelly infested our frontiers, and whose conquest had become necessary to our future quiet. In arranging a treaty with that enemy by which they will be required not only to make indemnity for the expences of the War, but to furnish security for future good behavior by an abridgement of their territory, it must be a matter of the utmost consequence to Tennessee where the line shall run that is hereafter to seperate them. This will be settled by those who negotiate the treaty; and may be greatly affected by the veiws and feelings which they happen to possess. But Tennessee is left without a voice to express her feelings or explain her veiws. Genl. Pinckney, we learn, is an amiable man, and a man of talents; but Tennessee would be very unwilling, and we think, not without

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good reason, that the adjustment of what so materially concerns her, should be confided to him alone; or to any one who is no better acquainted with her interests, and has no stronger motives to consult them. And who is his colleague? A man, whose interest and feelings, it is believed, are too much identified with those of the enemy, and in whom the people of the West as well as many in the East, have long since ceased to retain any confidence—A man who, they believe, has on some memorable occasions shewn himself unworthy any national trust, and to whom, more than to any other, they would be unwilling to confide the adjustment of what so deeply concerns them.

“We feel ourselves authorised to entreat and to remonstrate on the part of our state; because she is more deeply interested than any other, and because she has contributed more than any other to the conquest of the country which is the subject of arrangement. In that arrangement we humbly conceive, she ought to have a voice; and no voice has been allowed her. Whether in this if her *feelings* alone were concerned she has been treated with all the decorum she was entitled to, might perhaps be worthy consideration; but it is for a stronger reason than the mere want of politeness that we take the liberty of remonstrating in her behalf. Her interests may be compromitted by men, not even subject to her frowns, and she be left with her greivances unredressed, and with only the melancholly consolation of complaining.

“And what will be the situation of the cherokees? They have associated with us and fought by our sides; and they feel a great solicitude that those with whom they associated and fought; who they believed to be so well acquainted with their interests, and so strongly inclined to support them, should negotiate their treaty. They will not fail to veiw with distrust and despondency, a conference in which they will consider themselves without a voice to assert their rights or utter their complaints. Such too is the situation and such may be the despondency and distrust of the friendly Creeks. They have given many proofs of their entire confidence in the army of Tennessee, and its distinguished leader.

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“We do not claim an exclusive voice in arranging the terms of the treaty which is about to be made; very far are we from it, but we do think, that as citizens of Tennessee we are entitled to some voice in it; and that even if impartial justice be done, full satisfaction will not be given by the two who have been appointed. Perswaded that the government will think so too upon reflection, for the reasons we have assigned, and for others which will suggest themselves we take the liberty to entreat that you will lay this before the president, with such additional remarks, if you approve those we have advanced, as you may think proper to offer.”